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PATENT
2611-0116P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Wataru MATSUMOTO Conf.: 9784
Appl. No.: 09/445,298 Group: 2634
Filed: December 3, 1999 Examiner: SAM K. AHN
For: DIGITAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE

REPLY TO ERRONEOUS INDICATION OF PUBLICATION FEE DUE

MS PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following was received in the above-identified application:

- A separate Notice of Publication Fee Due
- A Notice of Allowance with an indication of Publication Fee due.

It is believed that this requirement for a publication fee by the USPTO is in error. In particular, the above-identified application:

- Has had a Request and Certification Under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(i) for non-publication filed therein;
- Is a Design application;
- Should issue as a patent more than four (4) weeks prior to the projected publication date; or

- The application was only filed as a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), which does not trigger publication;
- Filed as National Phase PCT Application with International Filing Date of , i.e., prior to November 29, 2000.

and according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.211(e) the publication fee should not be due.

In view of the Official Gazette Notice of July 31, 2001, 1248 O.G. 166, Applicant(s) hereby authorize the USPTO to charge the publication fee to Deposit Account 02-2448, if necessary. However, the USPTO should not charge the Deposit Account if the patent issues within sufficient time to remove the application from the publication queue. The USPTO is requested to notify the undersigned if the Deposit Account is charged.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____

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JWB/JWH/djm